iyy

What do natural gifts matter to me in someone who is unable to ripen them?

I watch, not without interest, the slow transformation in his mind of the image he had formed of me.

The delightful first hours of work in the morning are claimed by all my pursuits: piano-practice, dead languages, reading, correspondence, notes in this notebook; so that they are often broken up and I disperse unsystematically the most valuable moments of the day.

3

April

This evening I sob as I finish the wonderful *"Souvenirs <£H6pitdT* by Lucien Jean.[20]

Three times today, while talking to Leclerc, the secondhand-book-seller, I yielded to impulses of vanity and ostentation — for the least of which Lafcadio would have buried the blade of his knife in his thigh.[21]

How beautiful the weather was this morning!

4

April

Heredia's library and a part of Verhaeren's are being sold a week apart. I go to the first day of the first sale and to the second sale. Between them a severe grippe keeps me in the house.

In the auction-room I dispute a few books against Pozzi and Hanotaux. (In another notebook I shall set down my purchases in detail.) Most of the books are pushed 'way beyond their value. You let yourself be enticed into pursuing books that you only half want or perhaps don't want at all.

I had promised myself to get hold of a Desbordes-Valmore in the hope of then giving it to Marie de Regnier. I still

remember the day when, alone with her in her father's study, she recited to me *"Les Roses de Saadi."*[2]

Kept in the house by grippe.

[20] "Recollections of the Hospital,** character sketches by Gide's friend, appeared in the *Ermitage* in February and March 1906.

[21] The hero of *Les Caves du Vatican (Lafcadfo's Adventures)* punishes himself for each show of vanity by jabbing his knife into Bis thigh. The book was not published until 1914.

[22] Henri de R6gnier*s wife, herself a poet, was the daughter of the poet J.-M. de Heredia. "The Roses of SaadT is one of the most famous of the poems by Marceline Desbordes-Valmore.